

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 21 and 26-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 21, 26 and 27 are amended and claims 28-30 are added.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on October 25, 2007. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action.

Claims 1-7, 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP-A-10-171283 (JP '283) in view of Kellie et al. (Kellie), U.S. Patent No. 6,954,607, and Kosugi et al. (Kosugi), U.S. Patent No. 6,721,532. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of JP '283, Kellie and Kosugi fails to disclose or suggest a pressing force per unit area of the first pressing member that is configured to be larger than a pressing force per unit area of the second pressing member as called for by independent claims 1, 21, 26 and 27.

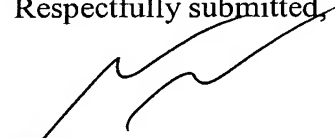
JP '283 discloses pressure rollers 11, 12 that are pressed toward the fixing roller 1 via springs 13, 14, and Kellie discloses a prefusing roller 12 and a final fusing roller 14 that are pressed against a backup roller 16. However, neither JP '283 nor Kellie disclose or suggest using a pressing force per unit area that is larger than another pressing force per unit area. Kosugi fails to overcome the deficiencies of JP '283 and Kellie because Kosugi fails to disclose two pressing members that face and contact the fixing roller 11A1.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 10, 2008

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